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Const. Liban Farah helps John, 11, choose a video game at Carlingwood Shopping Centre on Wednesday. JOE LOFARO/METRO

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Budget passed by councillors

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

Mayor says this year's was the most difficult to pass

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

For the first time in his five years as Ottawa's mayor, Jim Watson could not secure a unanimous vote on the city's budget.

The \$3.2-billion budget still passed Wednesday — by a vote of 18-5 — which means ratepayers will see their property tax bills rise by two per cent next year.

Coun. Catherine McKenney, Jeff Leiper, Diane Deans, Rick Chiarelli and Tobi Nussbaum voted against the budget.

"I knew that this budget was going to be the toughest one," said Watson.

Councillors and staff went into the committee-by-committee budget process knowing two things. They would face a \$36.3-million budget shortfall next year, and they could not raise taxes by more than two per cent (a cap on which Watson was not willing to budge).

The mayor's priorities for next year include a predictable tax rate in line with inflation, protecting frontline services and continuing to grow important projects, like Arts Court or light-rail transit.

At the end of the day, taxpayers will also see a six per cent hike on their water and sewer bills next year and a 2.5 per cent fare hike.

Leiper said council has been shackled to Watson's two-per-cent tax hike and Deans said council is "hell-bent" on staying within that target.

"Mr. Mayor, this is your budget. It's not mine," she said.

Watson said no councillor came forward with motions on how to save money, other than raising taxes or spending.

"Budgets are always difficult in difficult economic times, but I think we've maintained the kind of services that the public expect," he said. "We didn't go through a slash-and-burn exercise, which would have been the easy thing to do."

To help offset the shortfall, the city will need to dip into the \$23-million fleet and equipment reserve for one-time bridge funding.

Budget coverage, metroNEWS



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Your essential daily news

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WILDLIFE

Ottawa woman drives 400 km to help beaver

It was a quintessentially Canadian act of kindness.

When an Ontario wildlife sanctuary put out an urgent call for someone to drive an ailing beaver to a specialized facility some 400 kilometres away, they found a volunteer within half an hour.

Mary Herbert didn't have any prior plans to make the trek from Ottawa to Rosseau, Ont., but offered to give the rodent a ride on Wednesday simply because she's always liked Canada's national animal.

"I just figured I could help," the Ottawa-area resident told The Canadian Press after arriving at her destination.

"I looked at my husband and said 'I can do that, I'm free tomorrow.' I love animals. It's really nice to be able to help wildlife out."

Herbert had never volunteered for the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary before, but she did follow them on Facebook, which is how she saw their appeal for a "beaver taxi."

"There's a beaver pond where I live and that's just part of the wildlife that I see, and I like. This fellow, it looks like he's

been orphaned and he needed help," she said.

The beaver travelled in a crate which was covered with a blanket and kept on the back seat of Herbert's car.

"He was found unusually far from water," said sanctuary board member Heather Badenoch. "He was dehydrated, he was lethargic, he was disoriented."

The beaver was warmed up and given immediate care at the sanctuary but his behaviour still wasn't normal, Badenoch said.

A decision was made to transport the beaver to the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in the Muskoka region north of

Toronto as quickly as possible so he could be examined by a vet.

The beaver would also have the option of spending the winter at that sanctuary because of its indoor water enclosure.

"The beaver is beyond what we have the facility for here," said Badenoch. "Once he was stabilized enough to be transported, we put out the call."

The plea went out on social media channels, sparked the hashtag #beavertaxi, and caught Herbert's attention.

The sanctuary has put out similar calls for "animal taxis" before, but Badenoch said the sheer volume and speed at which responses came made it stand out.

"I think it was because it was a beaver," she said. "The joke was, it's the most Canadian thing to happen in Canada."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If I can save one beaver's life, that's a good thing.

Mary Herbert



Young Syrians play in the Zaatari Refugee Camp, near the city of Mafraq, Jordan, on Sunday. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugees find hope

IMMIGRATION

New arrivals headed for major cities across Canada

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

The first flight bringing Syrian refugees to Canada is arriving Thursday night, but none of the people on board will be resettled in Ottawa.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Wednesday that the

first plane of Syrian refugees is arriving in Toronto at 9:15 p.m. Thursday, and the second plane is arriving in Montreal on Saturday.

Of the 161 refugees on the first flight, 110 of them are staying in the Greater Toronto Area. Another 20 are heading for Calgary, 15 for Edmonton and the rest are destined for other parts of Ontario, Alberta and B.C.

The destinations of the 165 refugees arriving in Montreal on Saturday are not yet known.

Trudeau said he hopes to be at Toronto's Pearson International Airport Thursday night to welcome the refugees to Canada.

According to the federal de-

157

Ottawa is expected to welcome 157 refugees by Dec. 31, 2015.

partment of immigration, refugees and citizenship, 157 privately-sponsored refugees are destined for Ottawa.

Mayor Jim Watson has said the city can accommodate between 800 and 2,000 Syrian refugees. Housing remains the largest challenge to resettlement in the capital; the city has an affordable housing shortage.

The federal government is planning to resettle 10,000 refugees in Canada before the end of the year and another 15,000 by the end of February.

Some private landlords have stepped up. Q Residential, which owns and manages rental units, said it's making 150 newly-renovated apartment suites in Ottawa available to Syrian refugee families in the coming months.

The two and three-bedroom suites are in two adjacent high-rise towers on Donald Street, east of St. Laurent Boulevard. Q Residential said it's providing each family with a \$3,000 gift certificate at The Brick, to help them furnish their new homes.



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THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2016 CITY BUDGET

The 2016 Ottawa city budget passed with little change on Wednesday. Here are a few surprises and not surprises from the \$3.2-billion budget.

LUCY SCHOLEY & EMMA JACKSON/METRO



1 Arts funds (or lack thereof)

While Mayor Jim Watson boasts that the city's arts funding is at an all-time high, cultural groups say it's not enough. The Ottawa Cultural Alliance says the city is not keeping its word on a \$5-million action plan for arts, culture and heritage. Midway through the plan, only 22 per cent has been funded. Meanwhile, council approved 1.5 per cent more for cultural funding in next year's budget.



2 Cheers for patio-fee freeze

Restaurant owners have reason to clink their glasses (outdoors). Councillors voted to freeze outdoor patio fees next year, keeping the costs at \$1.18 per square-metre per day.



3 Cutting jobs? Get specific

It's known that council is looking to cut 50 full-time equivalent jobs as a cost-cutting measure — 35 of which are still unknown. That remains unchanged after Wednesday. However, Coun. Marianne Wilkinson asked staff to report back with some specifics, including concrete numbers on how many of those positions are vacant and what impacts the staff reductions have on long-term city operations.



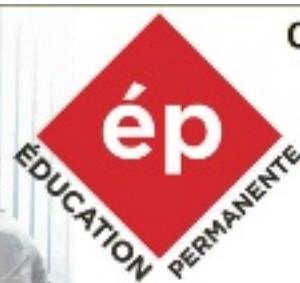
4 Festivals or bust

City hall staff will be looking into cost-recovery measures for boosted transit services for festivals and special events. This, after multi-music festival director Mark Monahan argued against OC Transpo's plan to make Bluesfest fork over \$200,000 for transit fees. Coun. Jeff Leiper's motion would lay out a "formal, transparent framework" for cost recovery.

5 End of the line for 63 bus routes



OK, this one is not so much a surprise, but relevant for transit users nonetheless. Councillors voted to axe 63 first and last OC Transpo routes, in an effort to save \$500,000 in the transit commission budget. That includes routes 98, 111 and 16. It may soon be time to double-check your bus schedule.



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Fare system needs tune-up: Councillor

metro CITY BUDGET 2016

Review and consultations expected by end of June



Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Coun. Tobi Nussbaum says he



Council voted down Coun. Diane Deans' idea to cut three FTEs to offset funds for her initiative. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

COUNCIL

'Budget on the fly'



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Mayor Jim Watson was quick to shoot down a city councillor's budget request for \$250,000 in funding for community agencies on Wednesday, ruling that her motion was out of order.

Coun. Diane Deans, who chairs the community and protective services committee, tried to secure the one-time funding for agencies that serve the city's most vulnerable citizens.

Deans was baffled when Watson ruled her motion out of order, saying she had met with his chief of staff and the deputy city treasurer on the matter.

"So the mayor can just rule any motion out of order that he doesn't like with no reasoning? I've just never heard of anything like that in my life,"

she said after the meeting. She was under the impression her initiative could be funded through a contingency fund, but Watson said she would have to offset the funds from elsewhere in the budget.

"It's not appropriate to go and take money out of a reserve fund, which is for emergencies."

In a scramble to offset the costs, Deans altered her motion to request that three full-time-equivalent positions be cut instead. It failed 18-5.

A last-minute request like that makes for a "budget on the fly," several councillors remarked. Arguing in defence of Deans' motion, Coun. Tobi Nussbaum wondered what the point of a budget debate was if councillors could not move money around.

Deans was among five councillors who dissented on the 2016 budget.

IN BRIEF

Staff flush fee-to-pee model

Transit users likely won't have to scrounge up a quarter to use the city's toilets, staff said Tuesday.

City manager Kent Kirkpatrick told council that reviews of a fee-to-pee model for public toilets inside the paid areas at Bayview and Hurdman stations indicate it's probably not worth the trouble.

While the revenue gener-

ated would cover some or all of the estimated \$13,000 monthly maintenance costs, it wouldn't touch the capital to install them in the light rail hubs, he said.

Advocates have been pushing for more toilets in the light rail network, arguing that groups like seniors and families would use transit more often if washrooms were available.

EMMA JACKSON/METRO



I simply don't see how we can continue to operate as though nothing has changed.

Coun. Tobi Nussbaum

will push for an overhaul of how the city pays for transit during a fare review next spring.

OC Transpo plans to reconfigure the fare system next year to take the light rail transition into account in time for 2018.

But Nussbaum wants to go a step further and revisit the city's goal to have fares cover 55 per cent of OC Transpo's annual operational costs.

The city's 2011 transit affordability plan calls

for steady, predictable fare increases — council approved a 2.5 per cent increase Wednesday — to help the transit service hit that goal.

Currently fares cover about

51 per cent, and taxpayers pick up the rest.

But Nussbaum said the ratio is based on outdated assumptions.

In 2010, ridership was expected to increase 2.1 per cent a year, bringing the city to about

114 million passenger trips in 2015. Instead, job cuts and low gas prices have helped ridership plateau around 97 million.

"I simply don't see how we can continue to operate as though nothing has changed," Nussbaum said. He said 55 per cent is an arbitrary goal: "there's no magic in the number 55."

It could just as easily be 45 per cent, or 60.

The comprehensive fare review is expected by the end of

June, and will include public consultations.

Transit commission chairman Coun. Stephen Blais has confirmed some sort of low-income transit pass will be included in the review.

Nussbaum tried to freeze fares at 2015 levels Tuesday with a motion to instead raise the transit levy 0.9 per cent, but it failed 17-6.

A 2.5 per cent fare hike will take effect next July 1.



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HOLIDAYS SPIRITED STROLL A man walks across the foyer of the House of Commons Wednesday in Ottawa. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tax change won't be neutral: Feds

ECONOMY

Despite cost of \$1.2 billion, Liberals push plan forward



Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

The Liberal government is forging ahead with its plan to raise taxes on the rich and cut taxes for middle-income earners — despite the fiscal impact on federal coffers.

The Liberal campaign platform said the tax changes would be revenue neutral, but the government admitted this week that they won't be; they will cost the federal treasury \$1.2 billion annually.

Asked about the \$1.2 billion gap on Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters there were different analyses during the

campaign of how much the measures were going to cost and bring in.

The Liberals promised to raise taxes from 29 per cent to 33 per cent on incomes more than \$200,000, and lower the tax rate from 22 per cent to 20.5 per cent on incomes between \$44,000 and \$89,000.

"That is what we are doing, and that is what we're committed to doing," Trudeau said. "It's not just good for middle-class Canadians to get more money in their pockets every paycheque, it's also good for fighting against

33%

The Liberal government had promised to raise taxes from 29 per cent to 33 per cent on incomes more than \$200,000.



That is what we're committed to doing.

PM Justin Trudeau

the income inequality that continues to be a problem for growth in Canada."

Finance Minister Bill Morneau has said the Liberals are facing a slower economy and a worse-than-expected fiscal environment handed over from the former Conservative government.

22%

They also vowed to lower the tax rate from 22 per cent to 20.5 per cent on incomes between \$44,000 and \$89,000.

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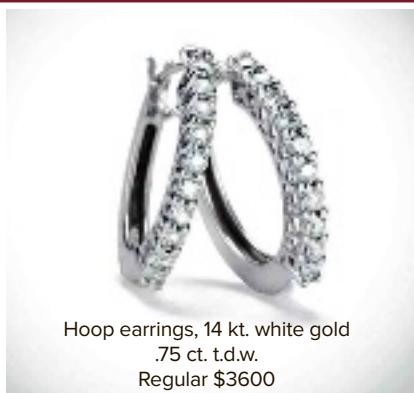


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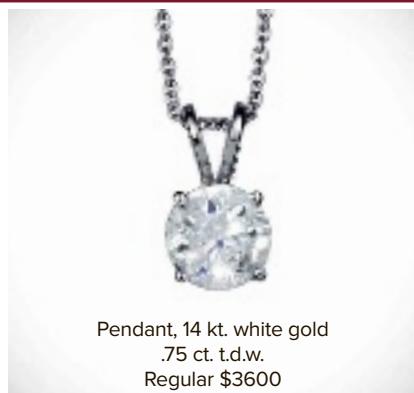


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In this artist's sketch, Senator Mike Duffy, a former member of the Conservative caucus, testifies at his trial in Ottawa on Wednesday. GREG BANNING/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'I have never broken the rules'

SENATE SCANDAL

Duffy says a powerful Tory told him to file expense claims

Sen. Mike Duffy says a senior Conservative colleague told him to file expense claims indicating he lived primarily in Prince Edward Island in order to insulate himself from criticism he wasn't qualified to represent

the province.

Where Duffy lived while he was senator is one of the central issues of his fraud, breach of trust and bribery trial. He is accused of defrauding the public purse when he filed expense and travel claims on the premise that his cottage in P.E.I. was his primary residence.

On his second day of testimony, Duffy recounted a Senate orientation session for new Conservative senators in early 2009. At the time, Duffy was "shaken" because a professor in P.E.I. had

questioned in the media whether the former broadcaster was qualified to sit in the Senate. Since the 1970s, Duffy had lived in Ottawa.

Duffy said Conservative Sen. David Tkachuk, then the deputy chairman of the powerful internal economy committee, told him not to worry.

"You've got two houses, so the housing allowance is to defray part of the cost of your second home, there's no reason for you to be penalized..." Duffy said Tkachuk told him. "It's very im-

portant that you claim all of the claims and allowances because if you don't, if you create any light ... the professor will say, 'He's different, he's not from here.'"

Tkachuk told an Ottawa Citizen reporter in 2012 that Duffy's expenses were entirely within the rules, and that many senators spent the winter in Ottawa and summer in their home province.

Tkachuk said Wednesday he never told Duffy to make expense claims to legitimize his hold on his Senate seat. "Every-

one in authority who knows what they're talking about, who knows the rules, knows I followed the rules," Duffy said.

Duffy added later that he and his wife discussed selling their home in Ottawa and living in a hotel like other senators do — a move that would have cost the Senate \$200 per night rather than the \$30 allotted for private residences.

The court also heard the minute details of how Duffy renovated his cottage in Cavendish, P.E.I., to make it suitable

for year-round use.

By the end of the project, Duffy had spent \$98,500 upgrading the structure inside and out, which Duffy's lawyer Donald Bayne pointed out was \$20,000 more than the housing allowance he claimed over four years for the home in Ottawa.

"You come out on this 'fraudulent deception' at best breaking even, if you survive a couple more years in the Senate, or behind the eight ball," said Bayne.

"Outrageous, isn't it?" Duffy said dryly. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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New owners to take over Zaphod

BYWARD MARKET

Staff member taking over nightclub in February

 **Tom Pechlof**
Ottawa Business Journal



This venerable venue will ... hopefully, with the strong support of Ottawans, continue the legacy of our past 26-plus years. Former owner Eugene Haslam

Downtown nightclub Zaphod Beeblebrox has a "new lease on life," owner Eugene Haslam said Wednesday when he announced he has sold the York

Street establishment.

Calling it a bittersweet day, Haslam issued a news release saying one of his staff members is the new owner and will take

possession of the storied live music club on Feb. 1.

"Once some legal and regulatory hurdles are cleared, this venerable venue will continue with a new lease on life and will, hopefully, with the strong support of Ottawans, continue the legacy of our past 26-plus years," he said.

Haslam said he will be available to help with the ownership transition, but since all

the staff is staying on, he expects it to be a smooth process.

Haslam would not identify the new owner, saying he has agreed to keep the name of the buyer confidential.

Haslam originally announced plans to step away in September 2014, but at the time he had no set timetable for his departure.

His last six weeks at the helm will be busy with the

club's annual 10 Days of Christmas programming and a concert calendar that is filling up.

"Bands that want to play their last shows of my tenure in December and January should get in touch ASAP," he said.

Since the club opened at its ByWard Market location in the early '90s, it has hosted a wide variety of acts, including Alanis Morissette, The Proclaimers and Jewel.



Const. Darren Joseph shares a pizza lunch with Rukaiya, left, and Kani Wednesday at Carlingwood Shopping Centre before hitting the stores. JOE LOFARO/METRO

COPSHOP

Police take kids on shopping spree

Ottawa police officers were on the hunt for some big bargains at the Carlingwood Shopping Centre on Wednesday.

The annual CopShop paired 25 elementary school students with officers for a one-day, \$5,000 shopping spree with donated gift cards from the mall.

As soon as their pizza lunch ended, some kids wasted no time and swarmed the EB Games store for their first stop as officers tried to catch up.

"No shoot 'em games," kindly said one police officer in his full uniform to an anxious shopper.

John, 11, used his \$200 gift card to buy a previously played Madden 25 game for his Xbox 360.

"I have a lot (of games) at home. Like, FIFA, hockey, golf and basketball."

En route to The Source, he

referred to Const. Liban Farah with west patrol division as "awesome." He was, after all, holding his shopping bag for him and giving him advice on what shoes to buy at Champs.

"It's nice to give back to the community," said Farah. "He's a sporty kid. He really cares about his family."

The CopShop is an eight-year tradition in Ottawa, and originally started in 2005 in Halifax. This year, local kids were chosen from schools in Ottawa's west end from Grades 1 to 6 and the event was organized by Const. Linda Nethercott, who works in the youth section at the Ottawa Police Service.

Children are chosen based on their academic or athletic achievements in school or for making a difference in the community.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

IN BRIEF

Designs for Building Trades Monument up for viewing

Ottawa residents will have a chance to weigh in on the early design proposals for the future Canadian Building Trades Monument to be built in Major's Hill Park.

The four finalists — hailing from Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax — were chosen in July from over 40 designs.

The public viewing is scheduled today from 5

to 7:30 p.m. at the Bytown Museum.

The Canada's Building Trades Unions is encouraging residents, particularly craftspeople, to give feedback on the designs.

The monument is slated for completion in 2017 and will celebrate Canada's tradespeople including carpenters, stonemasons, mechanical trades, ironworkers and construction labourers.

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Revelers crowd surf during last year's 10 Days of Zaphod's. CONTRIBUTED

Eat, drink, and see Star Wars

FESTIVITIES

Get merry at Zaphod's annual 10 days of Christmas

Trevor Greenway
Backstage Pass

Zaphod's is checking who has been naughty or nice and it seems most of you have been so bad that you've made it onto the nightclub's good list.

The York Street bar is rolling out its annual 10 Days of Zaphod's, and although there should be a couple more days added in to play on the 12 days of Christmas, organizer Keith Donoghue says it's "rock 'n' roll math – it's good enough for us."

"We want to tell people that we're not just open for the holidays, but we have got a few different events that are really special," says Donoghue, adding that the 10-day party is another way for the bar to gather donation for the Ottawa Food Bank.

The festive 10-day party is a way for the bar to give back to the many patrons who help it float; the regulars that grind their way in after a long day's work; the office crew looking to bond over drinks; the music fans that show up every weekend to sweat it out on the dance floor and the DJs and bands that get the Zaphod's dance floor mov-

ing every night. And yes, Star Wars Fans.

The bar is hosting several Star Wars-themed nights ahead of the anticipated release of *The Force Awakens*, including a *Trailer Park Bingo* Night and a VHS video night where the bar will play classic, obscure vintage Christmas specials, including a 1978 *Star Wars Holiday TV Special*. Donoghue swears it exists, but hopes Disney doesn't put the kibosh on his viewing party.

"It has a huge cult following because it was only shown once. Some people don't even believe it exists," chuckles Donoghue.

Metro did a quick search on YouTube and found the special. It was created by George Lucas and features Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford and James Earl Jones and it's really, really bad.

The viewing party takes place Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. right before the Zaphod's Annual Tree Decorating bash, where patrons show up with decorations to put their own little flavour on the popular Zaphod's tree. Donoghue says this is the bar's flagship holiday event, as people bring boxes and boxes of not just regular decorations, but obscure, vintage and even homemade ones. One of his favourite ornaments was a black and white picture of Ben Johnson that spun on a string. Yeah, that's weird. The party continues throughout December with Throwback Thursdays Star Wars Edition on Dec. 17, a Bizarre Bazaar Vintage pop-up market Dec. 19 and a Christmas Party Dec. 25. Patrons are asked

Because the bar has been open for 24 years, it has created sort of a family. Keith Donoghue

to bring donations all throughout December for the food bank.

Come sit on Zaphod's knee this Christmas, you may leave with a "vintage" 1999 R2D2 drink cooler — if you've been good this year.

10 Days

- 1. DEC. 16:** 7:30 to 10 p.m. Classic 1978 *Star Wars Holiday TV special*; 10 p.m. to close - Christmas Tree Decorating Party, bring food for Ottawa Food Bank.
- 2. DEC. 17** 10 p.m. to close Throwback Thursdays present X Marks the Spot (hits from every year a Star War movie was released: 1977, 1980, 1983, 1999, 2002, 2005 and '15)
- 3. DEC. 18** 8 to 11:30 p.m. Amos The Transparent; 11:30 p.m. to close: F*#! Yeah Fridays with DJs James and Floodzi
- 4. DEC. 19** 12 to 5 p.m. Bizarre Bazaar Vintage #Pop-Up - Shop local at Zaphod's day market 10 p.m. to close: The Electric Ballroom with DJ Floodzi
- 5. DEC. 20** 9 p.m. to close *Trailer Park Bingo Star Wars Edition* (prizes include a 1999 vintage R2-D2 drink cooler)
- 6. DEC. 21** 8 to 11:30 p.m. Showcase Mondays Christmas Party; 11:30pm to close An Electronic Christmas with DJ Lowpass
- 7. DEC. 22** 10 p.m. to close All Canadian Christmas - Canadian artists all night.
- 8. DEC. 23** 10 p.m. to close Smells Like Teen Festivus: All alt '90s as you dance around the Festivus pole
- 9. DEC. 24** CLOSED
- 10. DEC. 25** 10 p.m. to close, bar open for Christmas drinks

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NE1226615

QUEBEC

Assisted dying law comes into effect

Controversial Quebec legislation on assisted dying will become law on Thursday, says the province's health minister.

Gaetan Barrette made the announcement Wednesday after Quebec's top tribunal gave the provincial government permission to appeal a lower-court decision that granted an injunction aimed at blocking adoption of the law.

"That (Quebec Court of Appeal) ruling means that, as of tomorrow (Thursday), Bill 2 will be implemented fully," he told a news conference.

"The ruling does not state anything for or against Bill 2 in any way. What it says is that, as of tomorrow, Bill 2 can be implemented until there is a definitive hearing and definitive decision...on the actual grounds of the appeal."

Lawyers will be in court for that appeal on Dec. 18, although a decision from the

bench that day is considered unlikely.

Quebec Justice Minister Stephanie Vallee issued a statement later Wednesday and said the government will send guidelines to the Crown prosecutors' office in Quebec in a bid to reassure people in the medical community who may be worried about criminal proceedings.

She said the guideline is aimed at "allowing people at the end of their lives to receive care that respects their dignity and their autonomy."

The legislation, which was adopted by the national assembly in June 2014, outlines how terminally ill patients can end their lives with medical help.

Quebec is the first province to pass such legislation, arguing it is an extension of end-of-life care and thus a health issue, which falls under provincial jurisdiction. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canada criticized in Paris

The Climate Action Network International awarded Canada a second place "fossil of the day" award today at the COP21 climate summit, citing the reluctance of Canadian negotiators to have compensation for weather destruction in poor countries included in the final Paris agreement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories quiet on Afghanistan security funding

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan was non-committal Wednesday about renewing Canada's \$300 million support for Afghan security forces, despite a deadly attack by the Taliban at Kandahar Airfield that left as many as 37 people dead and another 35 wounded. THE CANADIAN PRESS

An aid request to the international community as a whole was approved by NATO foreign ministers last week, but Sajjan said it will be treated in the same manner as other urgent security matters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air Canada ordered to change discriminatory policy
Canada's transportation watchdog has chided Air Canada for what it calls a discriminatory policy prohibiting people with certain disabilities from flying alone.

The Canadian Transportation Agency ordered the airline to officially change its guidelines requiring people who are blind and deaf to travel with an attendant. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Immigration Minister John McCallum speaks about Canada's plan to settle 25,000 Syrian refugees. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Syrian refugees to begin arriving

IMMIGRATION

'It will be a great day,' Trudeau says

About 300 Syrians are expected to arrive in Canada by Saturday as the long-awaited, first flights under the Liberal plan to resettle thousands of refugees from the war-torn region finally touch down.

The first aircraft is scheduled to land Thursday evening in Toronto, with a second flight arriving Saturday in Montreal, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told the House of Commons during question period.

"Resettling refugees demonstrates our commitment to Canadians and to the world that Canada understands that we can and must do more," he said.

"It will be a great day." While just over 400 refugees

have arrived since the new government was sworn in on Nov. 4, Thursday marks the start of a program that's been weeks in the making, as officials in Canada and overseas have scrambled to help the Liberals meet a campaign promise to resettle 25,000 people.

Initially, the promise was to bring all of them in by year's end, but the government was forced to spread the commitment over a longer time period because of the logistics.

The first group of refugees will fly to Canada on military planes, but the government says the rest of the flights scheduled for December are likely to be privately chartered aircraft.

The first 300 arrivals are among 10,000 privately sponsored refugees the government is seeking to welcome by Dec. 31.

Those with sponsors in the Toronto or Montreal areas

“
Resettling refugees demonstrates ... that Canada understands that we can and must do more.

PM Justin Trudeau

will be told where and when to meet their new hosts, while those destined for other communities across Canada will stay overnight in their arrival cities before moving on the next day.

By the end of February, the government is itself hoping to resettle 15,000 refugees, to be initially spread among 36 different cities where agencies have agreements for resettlement services. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Opportunity to succeed

Haidah Amirzadeh was seven months pregnant and couldn't speak English when she arrived as a refugee in Saskatoon in 1989. Zahra Darzi fled Iran with her two daughters after her husband was executed. She claimed refugee status once she arrived in Regina in 1991.

Amirzadeh is now a lawyer specializing in immigration and refugee law who teaches at the University of Saskatchewan. Darzi is an engineer working at Saskatchewan's telephone utility.

Both say they came to Canada looking for an opportunity to succeed and both seized it. As Canada prepares to bring in thousands of Syrian refugees, the women say they want to remind people that, while many will come with little, it won't take long for them to get on their feet.

"I think, especially when somebody has been in such a difficult situation for so long, when they arrive to an opportunity, they really grab onto it," says Amirzadeh. "Nobody really wants to be a burden." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Firearms by the numbers

UNITED STATES

Seven key facts about guns in America

Another U.S. mass shooting committed with powerful but legal guns. Another refusal by Congress to pass any new gun laws.

Americans' fixation with firearms is an easy target for world condemnation. Some of it, though, is based on myths, outdated information and flawed assumptions about the actual state of affairs. Here are a few surprising statistics.

1 Gun crime is way down. High-profile mass shootings make America seem like a place where gun crime is spiralling out of control. In fact, gun crime is much less common there now than it was in the 1990s. Since 1993, the gun homicide rate has been cut in half, from seven per 100,000 people to 3.6 per 100,000, and the rate of non-deadly gun crime has dropped even more steeply.



This photo shows weapons carried by suspects at the scene of a shootout in San Bernardino, Calif. HANDOUT/SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Gun ownership is at an all-time low. Fewer U.S. households possessed guns last year than at any time in the last 40 years: 32 per cent, according to the General Social Survey. It appears that people who already owned a gun have been stocking up on more.

3 There's strong support for gun restrictions. Many Amer-

icans are highly supportive of specific gun-control proposals. In a Pew poll this summer, large majorities favoured mandatory background checks for people buying guns at gun shows (85 per cent), laws to prevent people with mental illnesses from buying guns (79 per cent), and a federal database to track gun sales (70 per cent).

4 Some politicians are taking action. When Congress refuses to do anything about guns even in the wake of mass shootings, it is easy to believe the entire American political system is doing nothing. That's not true: After the 2012 attack on a Colorado movie theatre, the state banned high-capacity magazines. Within two years of the 2012 Sandy Hook school

shooting, five states had expanded background checks.

5 America is still off the charts. The U.S. continues to have a far higher gun homicide rate than any other wealthy industrialized country. According to one study, the U.S. gun homicide rate was 20 times higher in 2003 than the combined rate of 22 other major nations. The U.S. was responsible for a remarkable 80 per cent of all gun deaths in all of the 23 countries combined.

6 The biggest gun problem is suicide. Suicides get far less attention than homicides, but they account for about 60 per cent of U.S. gun deaths — and rising.

7 African-Americans are the primary victims. African-Americans, and especially African-American men, are far more likely to be the victims of gun crime than anyone else. In 2010, for example, blacks were seven times more likely than whites to be killed in a gun homicide.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SAN BERNARDINO Police, FBI still in dark

By the time the married couple who carried out the deadly San Bernardino, Calif., mass shooting came to the attention of police, it was far too late.

The FBI's acknowledgement that the shooters had been radicalized Muslims for "quite some time" points to the difficulty in discovering potential terrorists who keep a very low profile and shows the deadly consequences that can occur when identification comes too late.

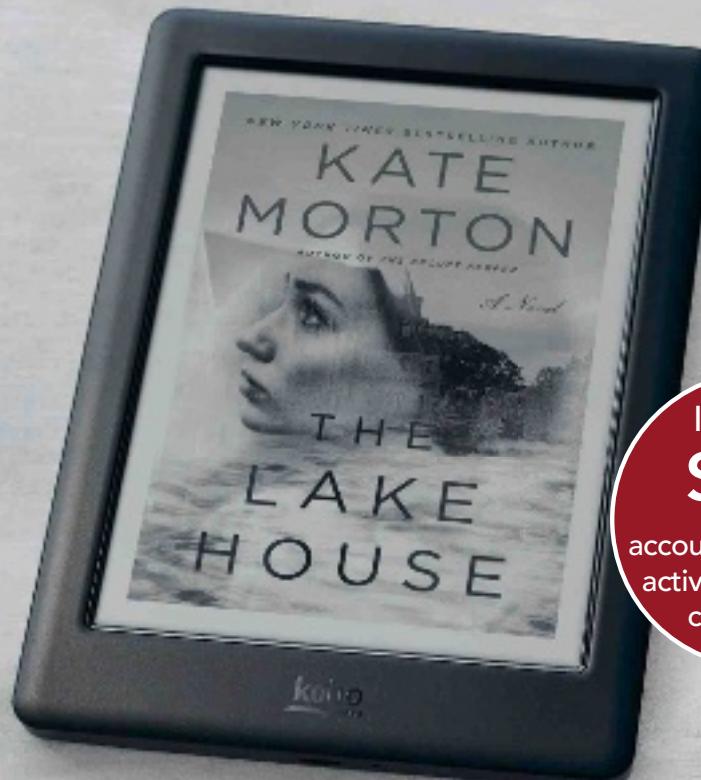
"What this situation shows is (identification) is not a foolproof system. A hundred per cent prevention is not achievable," said David Schanzer, a Duke University public policy professor who runs a centre that studies terrorism. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



It appears these people were very good at hiding their intentions.

Prof. David Schanzer

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Islamophobia rising in France

RACISM

Expert warns of detentions and abuse

France's state of emergency has allowed French police to conduct warrantless searches and detain people without charge — extraordinary powers that have been used to target the Muslim community, religious leaders say.

Yasser Louati is a spokesman for the Collective against Islamophobia in France. He spoke with *Torstar News Service* from Paris. The interview has been translated from French and edited for length and clarity.

Question: Your organization claims the state of emergency has unfairly targeted Muslims. What evidence do you have?

Answer: The raids have disproportionately targeted people of Islamic faith with overt brutal-

ity. We've collected evidence of 50 cases of abuse — and these are just the ones we know about — where police hurled racist abuse at families, women were assaulted and one even miscarried. When raids are conducted on erroneous intelligence — 90 per cent of the raids have found nothing — why humiliate people?

Q: Has there been more racism since the attacks?

A: The hate began the night of the attacks. Even before the attacks were finished, we already had death threats against Muslims and calls for revenge. Veiled women have been assaulted in front of their children — verbally, with fists and even with a box cutter.

Q: This attitude, do you see it as reflecting a bigger problem of Islamophobia, not only in France but across the western world?

A: We saw what Donald Trump said this week about ban-

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

We've fabricated a Muslim problem in our society.

Yasser Louati

ning Muslim immigration to the U.S. All I have to say is, will he ban the rich Saudis, too? I don't think so. It's just demagoguery. Donald Trump doesn't have policy, he only has punch lines.

Regarding the growing Islamophobia in the West, it's real but it's not due to the presence of Muslims. We've fabricated a Muslim problem in our society. We refuse to see Muslims as full-fledged citizens. We see them as Muslim, therefore an other, a foreigner. Muslims have been citizens of France for four generations and we continue to treat them as second-class.



Yasser Louati, a spokesman for the Collective against Islamophobia in France, says what's happening in France is part of a growing racism in the West. COLLECTIF CONTRE L'ISLAMOPHOBIE

UPDATE: MIGRANT CRISIS > **Smuggling boat sinks in Aegean, 12 drown, 12 missing; Greece clears out protesting migrants in the north**

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Turtle robot hunts Baltic for treasure

ESTONIA

U-CAT aims to cause minimal disturbance to silty sea floor

The Baltic seabed, littered with war debris and shipwrecks, has fascinated historians and researchers through the ages. But the underwater search robots they use pose problems by further disturbing the silty waters with their propeller movements.

Estonian engineers say they may have found a solution with their latest invention — a small, propeller-less underwater robot that causes minimum disturbance and lowers the risk of damage to submarine archeology.

The unique feature of the U-CAT, about the size of a vacuum cleaner, is four silicon flippers inspired by streamlined sea turtles' arms and legs.

"They move in a slow and quiet motion and won't bring up sediment from the (sea) bottom,"



Researchers at Tallinn University of Technology examine the U-CAT robot in a lab on Nov. 25. VITNIJA SALDAVA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

says Taavi Salumae, a designer at the Biorobotics Center of Tallinn University of Technology.

The underwater probe has been developed since 2012 in the EU-funded Arrows project that focuses on new technologies for marine research. It can stay submerged for four hours at a depth of 100 metres (330 feet) on a single battery charge of two hours. It's equipped with a camera and lights.

Most importantly, it can easily be rotated in tight spots that are too dangerous or difficult for human divers.

Salumae says the U-CAT, an acronym for Underwater Curious Archeology Turtle (winner of a Facebook contest to name the robot), is one of the first robots designed to go inside shipwrecks and help underwater archeologists study interiors of locations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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LAWSUIT

Canadian Tire sues Walmart over lights

ISTOCK

Canadian Tire is accusing Walmart of ripping off the design of its made-in-Canada clip-on Christmas lights and is demanding that the mega-retailer cease and desist.

A Federal Court claim filed by Canadian Tire alleges that Walmart worked with two Taiwanese companies to copy the construction and packaging of its Noma Quick-Clip lights.

It wants Walmart to stop selling the "unique" product due to copyright infringement, and is seeking \$500,000 in punitive damages. Walmart has yet to file a statement of defence.

Earlier this week, Canadian Tire issued an unrelated safety warning to customers who pur-

chased Christmas lights from its Holiday Collection line. It says some of the products may pose a fire and shock hazard.

Canadian Tire is recalling 12 products made by Taizhou Hongpeng Colour Lanterns that were sold between Aug. 1, 2015, and Nov. 30, 2015, Canadian Tire said.

Health Canada has previously issued warnings this year about hazards with seasonal lights that were sold at Walmart, Dollarama, The Michaels Companies, Loblaw Companies Inc., Shoppers Drug Mart and Pharmaprix. Affected brands include Life at Home, Magi Decor, Celebrate it and Danson Decor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF**UberEats expands service**

Uber is quadrupling the operating hours of its UberEats delivery service in Toronto and rolling out a wider menu selection from 100 restaurants. Uber's existing service, now called Instant Delivery, delivers a short list of food items in less than 10 minutes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dollarama reveals prices creeping up

RETAIL

Discount chain says \$1.25 is the new \$1 — with cap rising to \$4

Dollarama confirmed Wednesday what a lot of its customers already know: that the majority of items in the stores are priced above \$1.25.

So the Montreal-based discount retailer — where everything originally sold for a loonie or even less when it was founded more than 20 years ago — said it will start to use \$1.25 rather than a dollar as its new reference point when reporting sales and financial results.

And while its current maximum price point is \$3, Dollarama will also introduce even higher-priced items of \$3.50 and \$4 starting in the second half of next year, chief executive Larry Rossy told analysts on a conference call.

He said many products at its 1,005 stores across Canada are still priced at a buck, but the \$1.25 metric is "a better representation of our price point range."

For the three months ending Nov. 1, 59.7 per cent of sales came from prices above \$1.25, compared with 54.1 per cent during the same period a year ago.



Montreal-based Dollarama says its higher-priced items are intended to help it adjust to the impact of the weakening Canadian dollar. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The company said the higher-priced items are intended to help it adjust to the impact of the weakening Canadian dollar.

Dollarama started increasing its prices beyond \$1 about six years ago, and then introduced the \$2.50 and \$3 items in 2012.

A spokesperson said the new \$1.25 base price point is "totally unconnected to anything happening in stores," and that items without price stickers will remain \$1 as usual.

Ken Wong, marketing professor at the Smith School of

History has a funny way of repeating itself.
Ken Wong

Business at Queen's University, said it reminds him of how the five-and-dime stores in the 1950s eventually had to drop that moniker as costs crept up, and then they were

just swallowed up by Kresge's and Woolco, then K-Mart and Walmart.

"History has a funny way of repeating itself. No matter what business you're in, your prices can only be as low as your costs," said Wong.

Meanwhile the company — whose green and yellow signage already contains the word 'plus' beside the \$1 logo to reflect higher prices — will try to stick to its cap on grocery items of \$2, Rossy said.

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CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON HARPER'S SUCCESSOR



The exact number of Conservative supporters who held their nose to stick with Stephen Harper last October and/or who would rather have had a new leader to vote for will never be known, but based on a poll published earlier this week it was probably significant.

Designed to provide an early glimpse at the dynamics of Harper's succession, the Abacus poll suggests a majority of Conservatives will be looking for more than just a change in tone when they pick the next leader.

Over the course of the past decade, the Reform/Alliance branch of the party has dominated the Harper government. But at this early juncture, none of its leading members inspire more than tepid support among Conservative voters.

Under prominent right-of-centre champions such as Jason Kenney — Harper's go-to minister — or Saskatchewan premier Brad Wall, the party would risk being pushed back to its strongholds of Western Canada.

East of Manitoba, the dream candidate of a plurality of Conservative voters hails from the progressive-conservative side of the family, as does the runner-up.

Of the nine possible contenders put forward by Abacus, only Peter MacKay and Jean Charest, two former federal Tory leaders, enjoy double-digit support in every region of the country.

But Charest has made it clear that he is not contemplating a return to federal politics and his diehard fans seem to have accepted that his no is final.

Based on the Abacus poll, staying on the sidelines is a

“ A majority of Conservatives will be looking for more than just a change in tone when they pick the next leader.

good call. Only in his home-province would Charest be competitive with MacKay. In Ontario and Atlantic Canada, his former caucus colleague would beat him hands down.

By comparison, Wall barely registers outside of the Prairies. Ditto for Jason Kenney.

That is not to say that Harper's succession is MacKay's for the asking or even that he wants the leadership. But if he did throw his hat in the ring, he would be the prohibitive front-runner, especially in a field that will probably not even feature

It will be weeks and possibly months before the actual lay of the post-Harper land takes shape.

THE MICROTREND: Self-tanner sales pale



The decades-long trend of both women and men looking suspiciously sun-kissed in Siberian climates seems to finally be on the wane. A study by British market-research firm Mintel has found sales of self-tanning lotion are sinking like the sun on a December afternoon; a shift that is actually kind of retro. While in past centuries parasol-toting ladies prized their milky complexions — it indicated that you hadn't been out in the fields like some kind of peasant — Coco Chanel is credited with popularizing the lightly toasted look in the 1920s. It became the beauty ideal from then on. Interestingly, Chanel's rosy glow was also meant to broadcast that she lived a life of leisure on the French Riviera and didn't need to work, but by that time the workplace was more likely to be a typing pool than a potato farm. SOURCE: THE SCOTSMAN

some of the names that tested best in the Abacus poll.

Wall will be seeking another provincial mandate next year. He has consistently maintained that he has no interest in the federal job. Some believe that could change after the provincial election. But it is a rare premier who enters in a federal leadership campaign without a reasonable certainty of victory, and no such assurance would be on offer to Wall in the case of the Conservative Party.

Kenney has more solid support within the party than the poll indicates. But it is clear his high ministerial profile and a reputation for efficiency have not translated into popularity. Some of his Kenney's closest allies believe that the former minister could win the party, but doubt he could win the coun-

try. They note that there is a reason there has never been an openly socially conservative leader at the helm of a major federal party.

Ontario MP Lisa Raitt ranks best among the other former Harper team members whose names were put to the test. In the months to come, her critic role in the Commons will pit her against Finance Minister Bill Morneau; the pair is already emerging as the duo to watch in question period. But Raitt has yet to demonstrate the same proficiency in French, and no leader who was not fluently bilingual has met with electoral success federally since Lester B. Pearson resigned in the sixties.

By all indications, the Conservatives are not going to rush to a leadership vote. Based on the Conservative performance in question period this week, the interim team Rona Ambrose leads is well up to the job of keeping a rookie Liberal government on its toes in the House.

It will be weeks and possibly months before the actual lay of the post-Harper land takes shape. And although recent experience shows that running to a distant also-ran finish ends up being little more than a vanity pursuit, some of the contenders will only join the race to raise their profiles.

The greater the number of contenders, the higher the odds will be that one of this week's dark horses ends up the winner. Joe Clark and Stéphane Dion were both unlikely beneficiaries of a crowded leadership field.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview



Don't be PC. Say it: Donald Trump supporters are racist.

Donald J. Trump is right about one thing. We're far too politically correct.

So politically correct, in fact, that we can't even admit his followers are racist.

We're happy to heap scorn on the man himself. See how much of the world united to denounce his call to ban Muslims from entering the U.S. Witness Vancouver and Toronto seek to rebrand his real estate properties, lest a bigot's name be found in their skyline. Watch the Daily Show dub him "White ISIS" or WISIS.

But when it comes to Trump's devotees, we take a much different tack.

Pundits are hand-wringing trying to explain his continued lead in the Republican nomination polls, and seem to take comfort in the fact that more Republicans don't support Trump than do. Reporters covering his rallies noted this week that Trump seems to beguile his supporters with humour and flattery. Psychologists are positing Trump's fans are swayed mostly by his defiant stance.

But few are blaming Trump's supporters for their culpability in spreading anti-Muslim, anti-Mexican and anti-Chinese vitriol. And even fewer are explaining his popularity by calling a spade a racist.

Conservatives, of course, don't want to alienate their own, especially when they're courting votes.

Liberals have no excuse. Except possibly the fear of backlash, and I'll admit to being worried myself. I like the various explanations offered for Trump's popularity, because they make me feel better about my fellow humans.

If they're not hate-filled, it's easier to keep up my whole humanistic world view, never mind my Catholic one. We're supposed to be accepting of all. We also tend to believe people hold different opinions only because we haven't quite got to them yet.

I might, if I met them in a coffee shop, like a Donald Trump supporter without knowing they were one, and I wouldn't want to piss off my new brew buddy.

But the stakes, in the case of Trump's rally-goers, are far too high for all that.

Anti-Muslim sentiment is rising. And it doesn't need a boost from the most widely covered politician in the U.S., if not the world.

So let's be honest: Anti-Muslim sentiment is only getting that boost because Trump's disciples are racist. Not confused. Not afraid. Not manipulated by flattery. Racist.

I think it's very, very sad, yet important, and probably not politically correct, but I don't care, eh Trump? Otherwise, it's going to get worse and worse, folks. We have no choice. So, Donald, how's that for politically incorrect?

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TOYOTA

It's that time of year when books critics sort through the piles on their desks in search of the best of the best. While you can't go wrong with any of the titles on this year's Scotiabank Giller Prize shortlist — especially Andre Alexis' *Fifteen Dogs*, which took the award — plenty of other Canadian 2015 releases are worth picking up as a present, or for that coveted holiday-vacation read

SUE CARTER FOR METRO

Every gift in the book

The Devil You Know,
Elisabeth di Mariaffi
(Patrick Crean Editions)

Elisabeth di Mariaffi's first thriller, set in 1993 just prior to the arrest of serial rapist Paul Bernardo, introduces a confident new voice who perfectly capturing the paranoia and fear of the time through the eyes of a young reporter.

The Social History of Ink,
Ted Bishop (Viking)

Alberta professor Ted Bishop travels the world to uncover the cultural history of ink. Who knew that the ubiquitous ball-point pen has such a sordid legacy of murder, rivalries and intrigue?

Kim Echlin, Under the Visible Life (Hamish Hamilton)

The power of music and the isolation of being an outsider makes Kim Echlin's story about a decades-long friendship between two women one of the year's most overlooked novels.

Beyond the Pale: Folklore, Family, and the Mystery of Our Hidden Genes, Emily Urquhart (HarperCollins)

After giving birth to a daughter with albinism, Emily Urquhart uses her background as a folklorist to uncover various stories and fables in hopes of better understanding the cultural narratives surrounding the genetic disorder.

If I Fall, If I Die,
Michael Christie (McClelland & Stewart)

Vancouver author and former pro-skateboarder Michael Christie draws on his personal history in this novel about a young boy in Thunder Bay who longs to go outside and leave the safety of his agoraphobic mother.

Sidewalk Flowers, JonArno Lawson and Sydney Smith (Groundwood Books)

Sure, it's technically a kids' picture book, but JonArno Lawson's wordless poem, about a young girl observing the world while her distracted dad carries on their walk, is a poignant

ant reminder for grown-ups to slow down. Warning: Sydney Smith's gorgeous illustrations may draw a few tears.

Stalin's Daughter,
Rosemary Sullivan (HarperCollins)

History buffs will love Rosemary Sullivan's meaty biography of Svetlana Alililuyeva, the only daughter of the tyrant dictator Joseph Stalin, who spent her long, fascinating life trying to escape her father's name.

Russell Smith,
Confidence (Biblioasis)

It has been nearly 20 years since Russell Smith burst onto the literary scene heralding a new generation of writers more interested in what was happening at the cocktail bar than the CanLit settings of yore. Smith's short stories prove that he is still an astute observer of urban mores.

The Brief Reincarnation of a Girl, Sue Goyette (Gaspereau Books)

Sue Goyette's powerful poetry collection doubles as documentary as she tries to make sense of the true-life story of a couple tried for murder after their young child died from a prescribed drug cocktail meant to treat ADHD and bipolar disorder.

James Grainger,
Harmless (McClelland & Stewart)

It's no surprise that Atom Egoyan has already optioned James Grainger's debut novel. This taut, economically written thriller about a friends' weekend away contains some gory twists, and doubles as a clever exploration of contemporary masculinity.

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



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Ripley's tales hang by a head, or hair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Curiosity drives popular oddities series, archivist says

Dean Lisk
Metro | Canada

At what point does a person realize they can dislocate their eyeball from its socket, or swallow a sword, or contort their body so it fits into a suitcase, or even lift a washing machine with only their hair?

"I think sword swallowing is lame. That is where I draw the line. But, how you learn you can swallow a sword is one of the greatest mysteries of my life," says Edward Meyer, vice president of exhibits and archives at Ripley's Entertainment Inc.

He had a chance to learn the answer a number of years ago when he met the man who holds a record for the most swords swallowed at once, the longest sword swallowed

and who can even bend over and bow while performing the trick.

"I asked him, I'd wanted to ask a sword swallower this for 20 years, how did you learn to do this? And, I kid you not, he was a juggler and he found out the sword swallower in the show was earning twice his salary. He decided he was going to learn to do it. He walked into an army surplus store, took a sword off the wall and shoved it down his throat.

"He hurt himself, but realized what the trick was right away, and said, 'Hey I can do this.'

Sword swallowing is one of the believable — even though you may be taken aback by it — facts included in Ripley's



Believe It Or Not! Eye-Popping Oddities, the 12th and newest in a series that examines some of the

odd, unusual and unbelievable.

"It's human curiosity, in a nutshell" Meyer says of Ripley's appeal. As the archivist, he takes care of the more than 35,000 exhibits in the entertainment chain's 32 "odditoriums" around the world, more than 50,000 photographs, and the 120,000 cartoons from its 98-years (and counting) of

newspaper-syndicated columns.

"People want to know about the rest of the world and their place in it. And, if they are odd or eccentric, they want to think they have a big place in it, and that 15 minutes of fame that Andy (Warhol) promised everybody is a big motivator."

Many of the things you will find in the book, including a young woman who can lift a washing machine by her hair while hanging upside down, are submitted by the public. It's a tradition which began with Robert Ripley, who created his first Believe It or Not! cartoon for The New York Globe in 1918.

"He realized that people were his greatest source of information," says Meyer. "He said give me your stuff and I will make you famous, that is what it boils down to."

It made the U.S. postal service boil over in frustration. Instead of addressing their letters directly to Ripley, many were mailed using funny addresses or labelled with drawings. It prompted the service to issue a stern warning.

"It became a game to see how you could get to Ripley without directly going the easy route," Meyer says. "People were really clever. At the time he was getting over 2 million pieces a year on average, so half of that, a quarter of that, had weird addresses the post guy had to figure out or decipher — you could tell why they were upset."



PRAISE FOR KAREN SWAN

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PUBLISHERS GROUP CANADA

TOO WEIRD EVEN FOR RIPLEY'S

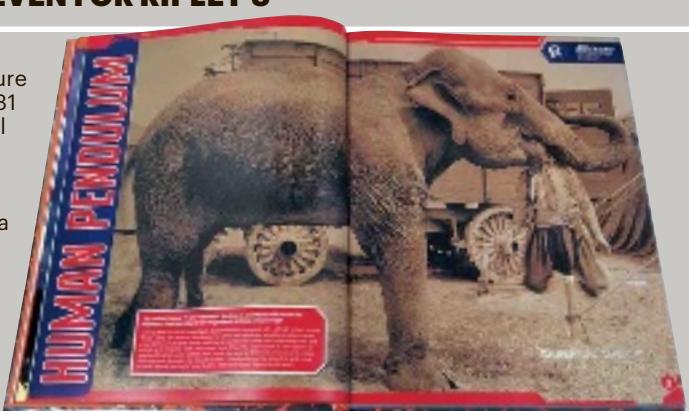
Editor's pick

Meyer's favourite picture in the book is from 1931 and features an animal trainer, who goes by the nickname "Cheerful," hanging from an elephant's mouth like a human pendulum.



"The faith in his training skills that this elephant isn't going to crush him, isn't going to sneeze on him or inhale him, or anything else, is mind blowing."

Edward Meyer of Ripley's Entertainment



What readers want

While every book Ripley's puts out is different, Meyer says every edition includes a chapter on food.

"I don't get it," he says. "I've probably eaten more weird food than anybody else you will ever meet, but I don't like looking at pictures of weird foods. Give me the duck head, and I will try it, but I don't need to stare at it."

What you won't find

If it's 100 per cent true, Ripley's wants it. But, there are some things they won't touch, says Meyer.

"We shy away from nudity — totally away from pornography. We aren't really keen on aliens or 'witchcraft.' If you can't prove it — that doesn't mean we aren't interested in it — but if you can't prove it, we are not going to put our name on it." DEAN LISK/METRO

3

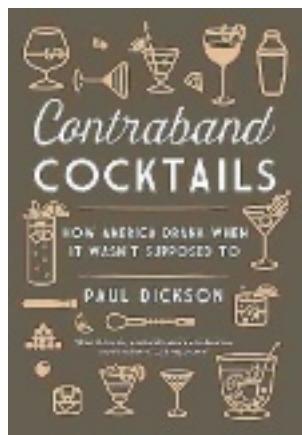
PICKS FOR THE BOOK LOVERS ON YOUR LIST

Everyone knows the best gifts are the ones that are thoughtful and a wink to the gift recipient's personality. Forget those generic gift cards and go for one of these fun books. Whether you're looking for something for your office Secret Santa party, for the guy or girl you're kind of into, or for your best friend, you're sure to win some points with one of these picks.

EMILY LAURENCE FOR METRO

1 Contraband Cocktails
by Paul Dickson

Give your favourite drinking buddy a recipe book for cocktails made popular during Prohibition. Just because consuming alcohol was illegal didn't stop people from drinking: there were over 32,000 speakeasies in New York City alone. Author Paul Dickson serves up some fascinating history and photographs of the Prohibition Era, and lots of recipes to keep you warm through the winter.



2 Picador Modern Classics

These pocket-sized titles are stunning, and even though they're tiny, the font isn't ridiculously small or hard to read. Books as good as Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides* and *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson.

3 The Rap Year Book
by Shea Serrano

This new book highlights the pivotal moments in rap from the past 36 years. Biggie, Tupac, Sugarhill Gang, Drake — they're all in here. And with an intro by Ice-T, colorful pages packed with quizzes, lyric maps, artist portraits and infographics, it's way cooler than any history book. You've ever seen.



BOOK BRIEFS

Nonfiction prize long list announced

Twelve titles have made the long list for the 2016 RBC Taylor Prize for non-fiction, including one by a former winner and another that's already won a major award.

Toronto journalist Ian Brown, who won the \$25,000 Taylor prize in 2010 for his memoir *The Boy in the Moon: A Father's Search for His Disabled Son*, made the cut this time for *Sixty: The Beginning of the End, or the End of the Beginning?* (Random House Canada). Also on the list is *Stalin's Daughter: The Extraordinary and Tumultuous Life of Svetlana Alliluyeva* (HarperCollins Publishers) by Toronto's Rosemary Sullivan, which won the \$60,000 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction in October.

Another title on the list is *Road Trip Rwanda: A Journey Into the New Heart of Africa* (Viking Canada) by Calgary's Will Ferguson, who won the 2012 Scotiabank Giller Prize for his novel *419*.

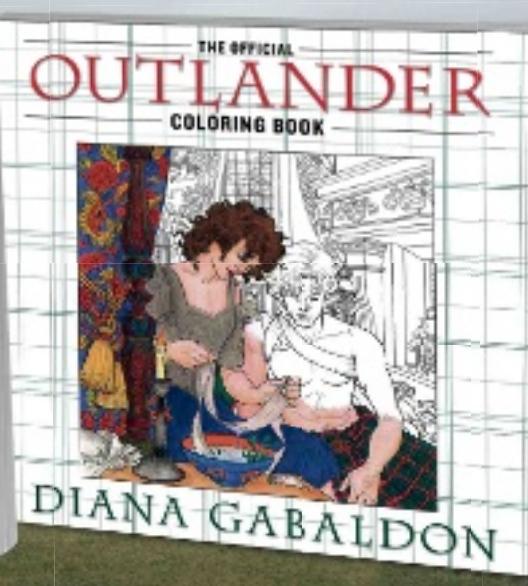
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Perfect Gifts

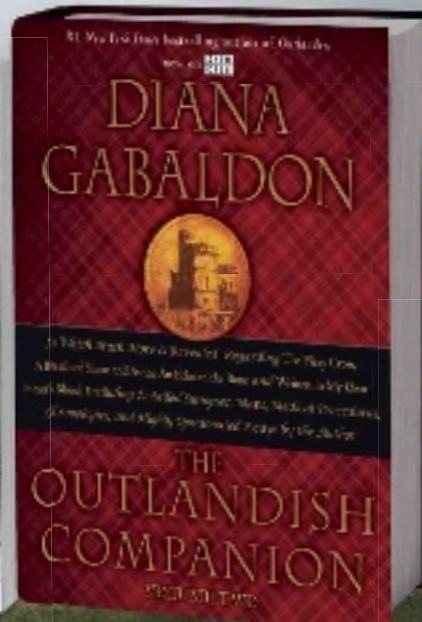
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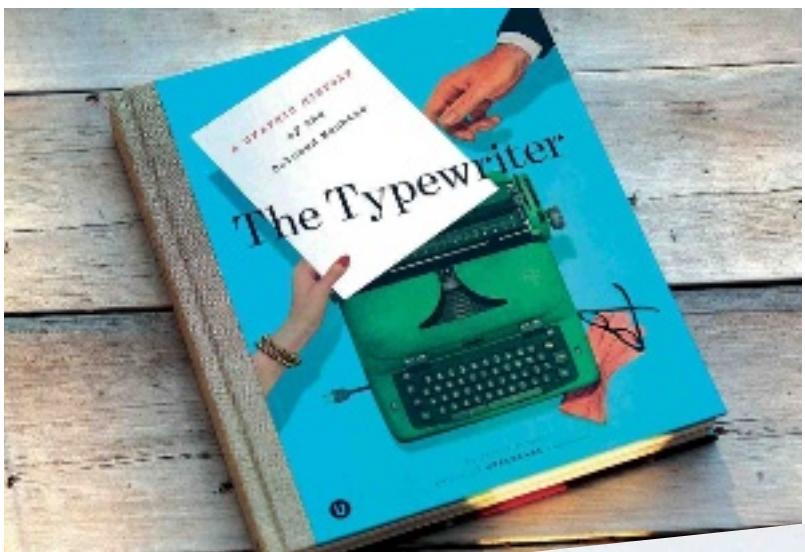
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penguinrandomhouse.ca



Typewriting Protocol (pullout book)

The handbook, entitled *How to be a super-secretary*, offers a range of etiquette tips and ideas for working women that is rife with sexist language and is frequently hilarious. For example, on appropriate dress for the office, ladies should find the balance between "ultra-extreme" and "over casual" and avoid elaborate makeup and hair styles. A two-page quiz encourages secretaries to rate their performance in 13 categories and then to check it again six months later. An extensive list of boss pet peeves includes admonitions against "chewing gum" and "swearing (this should be the boss's privilege)."

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FREE ENTRY

Just my type

The *Typewriter: A Graphic History of the Beloved Machine* (UPPERCASE publishing) is filled with facts, photos, illustrations and advertisements that illuminate a subject which is occasionally provocative and unexpectedly fascinating. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Keyboard basics

One of the earliest examples of a typewriter keyboard shows a design that competed with and eventually prevailed over rival designs to become the standard for typewriter and computer keyboards in the modern era. Note that in the interest of economy, the keyboard in the picture does not include a key for the number 1, instead relying on uppercase I or a lowercase l. Other machines at the time omitted the numbers 1 and 0 for the same reason.

Early advertisements

As women began to enter the workforce in ever greater numbers, an array of post cards from the early 20th century demonstrate the issue of office romance in ways ranging from gently humorous to downright lecherous. The underlying message is that men are in charge in the workplace and may or may not take liberties while women may be objects of attraction but are always subordinate.

Origins of the office pool

A lantern slide shows a typical scene in a secretarial pool busily working away in a crowded office space in Vienna circa 1910. Note that the women are all well covered in the conservative dress of the day and wear their hair pinned up. The slide has been hand-painted to add colour to their cheeks. This is the stereotypical example of secretaries with demure smiles and fashionable dress.

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Trumbo landed three Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations. HANDOUT

Trumbo leads SAG nominations

AWARDS SEASON

Screen Actors Guild Awards highlight 2016 Oscar hopefuls

The Hollywood blacklist drama *Trumbo* scored a leading three Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations on Wednesday, and sleeper contenders *Beasts of No Nation* and *Straight Outta Compton* entered the awards conversation in a real way when both were nominated for best ensemble drama.

Beasts of No Nation star Idris Elba was also nominated for best supporting actor, as well as for his role in TV's *Luther*. Other best ensemble nominees included *Spotlight*, which is emerging as the strongest candidate for best picture so far this season; *Trumbo*; and the housing bubble dramedy *The Big Short*.

The 22nd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards honouring the best film and television performances of the year will be presented Jan. 30 and broadcast live from Los Angeles on TNT and TBS.

Starry ensemble casts left out of the SAG nominations included Ridley Scott's *The Martian*, Quentin Tarantino's *The Hateful Eight* and David O. Russell's *Joy*.

While *Straight Outta Compton* was a box office and critical

hit, its award season prospects were unknown. On Monday, the African-American Film Critics Association named the N.W.A. drama their best of the year, but it's been mostly overlooked by other critics' awards.

The nominations helped bring a murky awards season into a bit more focus, and SAG's choices highlighted a few underdog performances.

Leading female performance nominees included Cate Blanchett (*Carol*), Brie Larson (*Room*) and Saoirse Ronan (*Brooklyn*), all of whom have dominated awards buzz, but also Sarah Silverman for the depression indie *I Smile Back*, and Helen Mirren for *Woman in Gold*, about an elderly Jewish woman looking to reclaim art once stolen by the Nazis. Mirren was also nominated for a supporting performance for *Trumbo*.

The lead actor nominees were a bit more expected, with recognition for Bryan Cranston (*Trumbo*), Johnny Depp (*Black Mass*), Leonardo DiCaprio (*The Revenant*), Michael Fassbender (*Steve Jobs*), and Eddie Redmayne (*The Danish Girl*).

In the supporting category, Christian Bale was nominated for *The Big Short*, Mark Rylance for the Cold War thriller *Bridge of Spies*, Mi-

chael Shannon for playing a predatory real estate agent in *99 Homes* and nine-year-old Vancouver native Jacob Tremblay was acknowledged for playing a child in captivity in *Room*.

Supporting actress contenders included London, Ont.'s Rachel McAdams (*Spotlight*), Kate Winslet (*Steve Jobs*), Alicia Vikander (*The Danish Girl*) and Rooney Mara (*Carol*).

Mara and Vikander both have significant onscreen time in their respective movies, which has led some awards prognosticators to criticize their supporting actress campaigns.

Nominees are selected by separate movie and TV nominating panels, each comprised of over 2,000 randomly selected SAG members.

Many members of the SAG movie panel also vote for the Academy Awards and as a result, the SAG nominees have traditionally served as a helpful indicator of potential Oscar acting nominees.

In a year when Hollywood's lack of diversity has become of critical concern following last Oscar's all-white acting slate, the individual performance nominees for movies remained largely monochromatic, save for Elba's supporting nominations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STACKED DECK
On the TV side, political drama *House of Cards* leads with three SAG drama ensemble nods including best drama ensemble.

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Jimmy Iovine: A year at Apple Music

INTERVIEW

Executive talks DJs, Drake, human-curated content

When Apple Music elbowed their way into the streaming market, they were late to the party: Songza had consciously coupled with Google Play, Spotify's catalogue granted every musical wish (that wasn't Taylor Swift) for free, and Tidal had an 18-artist supertrust of owners, including but not limited to Jay Z, Beyoncé, Kanye West, and Daft Punk.

But like the guest that everyone was waiting for, all eyes turned to Apple Music when it arrived fashionably late last June, shepherded by Jimmy Iovine.

"We've only been open five months," Iovine, 62, says over the phone. "That's a short time. When you're at Apple it's not a short time because all eyes are on you from the minute you think about hatching."

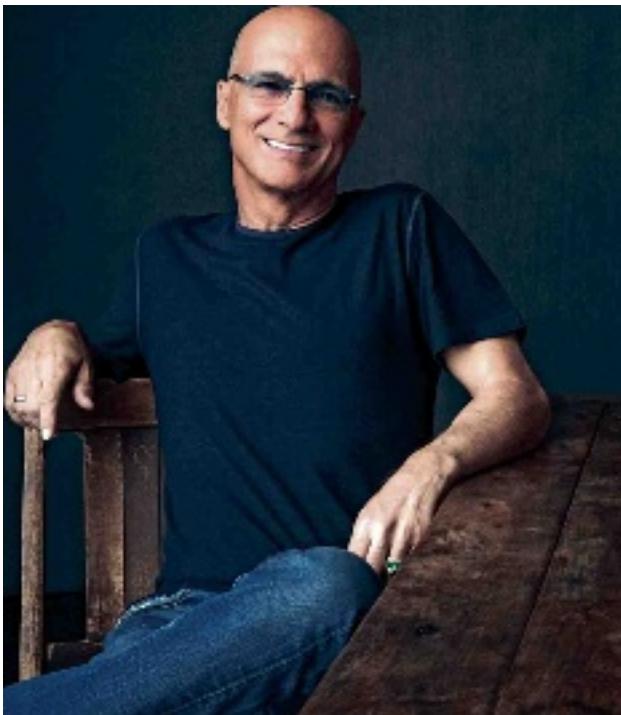
As Apple drops its Best Of list, Iovine looks back on Apple Music's first year.

March: Get Lowe

Iovine made it an early priority to poach beloved BBC DJ Zane Lowe. "We went out and got who we felt was the best guy in the world for discovering new artists," says Iovine. Lowe's show on Beats 1 radio has had such exclusives as an hour-long interview with Adele and first cracks at tracks by artists such as Coldplay and Skrillex.

June: What A Time To Be Alive

When Apple Music launched, they only needed two superstars: Torontonians Drake and



"Are we there yet? No! Is it a work in progress? Yes!" Apple Music's Jimmy Iovine says of the company. CONTRIBUTED

The Weeknd, who performed I Can't Feel My Face for the first time at the launch. Drake has since peppered the service with exclusives, such as his dad jivin' Hotline Bling video and his team's OVSOUND Radio show. "He's a very progressive artist as far as technology is concerned," Iovine says.

July: Press Playlist

A crusader for human-curated content, Iovine personally listened to thousands of playlists, from Trap Soul to Cleaning Up After The Kids, that had been developed by hundreds of Apple employees. He has a tip for aspiring New Year's Eve playlist makers. "The whole thing about playlists is what song comes next," he says.

November: You Had A Bad Day

On November 19, Iovine clumsily tried to underline Apple Music's usability on CBS This Morning by saying, "I've always known that women find it very difficult at times, some women, to find music." The backlash online was immediate.

December: Beats 2.0?

For all the service's success, Iovine is not done yet. "Like anything you're creating, I'm thrilled with some stuff, not so thrilled with other stuff," he says. "I like where we are with our audience reach, I like where we are with our subscriber base so far, I like where we are musically."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Top 3 Songs on iTunes in 2015

1 Uptown Funk, Mark Ronson (feat. Bruno Mars)

This throwback jam was the biggest hit of 2015.



2 See You Again, Wiz Khalifa (feat. Charlie Puth)

The hip-hop tribute scored the touching climax to Furious 7.



3 Thinking Out Loud, Ed Sheeran

Sheeran's guitar ballad bloomed during wedding season.



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Peak Meta has arrived



The power of TV is constantly referred to on The Grinder. HANDOUT

THE GRINDER, SEASON ONE, EPISODE THREE (CITY/FOX)

The Sanderson family — put-upon lawyer Stewart (Fred Savage), his wife Debbie (Mary Elizabeth Ellis), his brusque dad Dean Sr. (William Devane), and his heartthrob ex-TV-star brother Dean Jr. (Rob Lowe) are discussing Ray Donovan. (That's Ray Donovan the real TV series, which airs on a rival network, Showtime.)

This entire Grinder episode has revolved around someone erasing Ray Donovan from the family PVR. The words "Ray Donovan" have been uttered six times. Finally, they're watching the show. "Who's that?" Dean Sr. asks. "Ray Donovan!" the others holler.

Welcome to Peak Meta. The Grinder is the name of this show. It's also the name of the show-within-the-show that Dean Jr. starred in (and the name of his character).

It's a prodigal son story: To Stewart's eternal exasperation, people take Dean Jr.

seriously as a lawyer simply because he played one on TV. The power and ubiquity of TV are referred to constantly. And of course, all four actors are known from now-iconic series The Wonder Years (Savage), The West Wing (Lowe), It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia (Ellis) and Knot's Landing (Devane).

Not long ago, meta-TV was an erudite concept found only on haute-cable shows. (Who remembers the telefilm The Positively True Adventures of the Alleged Texas Cheerleader-Murdering Mom, which made HBO hip in 1993?) Today it's as dated as the viewers who dived out of the way when they first saw Lumière's train movie. Now that we barely exist off screen, meta is a sitcom punchline, the TV equivalent of Normcore.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



GOSSIP BRIEFS

Dad on the dating market

One Direction member Louis Tomlinson tried — and apparently failed — to make things work with girlfriend Briana Jungwirth, but he's since broken up with her, according to Life & Style. Oh, and Jungwirth is due to give birth to his kid next month.



"He dumped her," a source says, adding that the pregnant makeup artist didn't see it coming. "They had been trying to work things out the past few weeks during his One Direction tour. He even introduced Briana to his mom."

Maybe that didn't go so well? Anyway,

lest he be labeled a complete wanker, Tomlinson has "promised to love and support their child financially."

NED EHRBAR/METRO

Justin Bieber's Instagram crush

Justin Bieber shared an image of a mystery girl on his Instagram with the caption "Who is this!" — which was quickly answered by his fans who, much like the flying

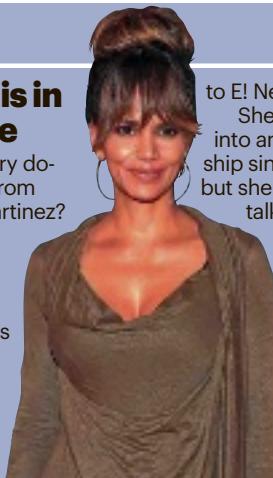
monkeys of the Wicked Witch of the West, set out to fetch the account info of the girl for Bieber. Turns out she's a 17-year-old from Spain named Cindy Kimberly, according to BuzzFeed.

"I so do not know how to deal with this," Kimberly wrote in an Instagram post. Bieber, likely scared off by the fact that his Instagram crush is only 17, carried on with his life (posting pictures of his Playboy bunny-themed pants, and a car). MATTHEW LEE/METRO

Halle Berry is in a good place

So how is Halle Berry doing since her split from husband Olivier Martinez? Funny you should ask.

Less than two months after filing for divorce, Berry "is in a very peaceful and happy place at this time" and is dating "here and there," according



to E! News. She hasn't gotten into another relationship since her breakup but she has been talking to a few people very lightly and going out when she has time. She enjoys being single and doing her own thing."

NED EHRBAR/METRO

MUSIC

Only copy of Wu Tang album goes unplayed

I could be convinced to listen to it earlier if Taylor Swift wants to hear it or something like that.

Martin Shkreli

Obviously there was no chance any of us were going to be the eventual owner of Once Upon a Time in Shaolin, Wu Tang Clan's new album for which they only made one physical copy, but I didn't expect this.

The new owner is Martin Shkreli, the pharmaceutical CEO who rose to infamy earlier this year for jacking up the price of an AIDS medication to \$750 a pill.

You monster. NED EHRBAR/METRO

Trudeau: Political pinup romances Vogue readers

PUBLISHING

Sure the pics are sexy, but they could be even steamier

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

So Vogue has gone and included newly minted Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in its January 2016 issue, along with a striking portrait photo by Norman Jean Roy that dolls him up like an old Hollywood star. A sexy embrace with his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, is also captured by Roy. In Canada, the photos and articles were widely shared



Justin Trudeau Is the New Young Face of Canadian Politics

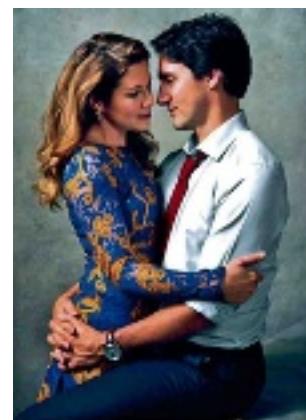
VOGUE.COM

PHOTO CREDITS: SCREENSHOTS FROM VOGUE.COM/FACEBOOK/PINTEREST

on social media (pictured).

Now, discussions of Trudeau's looks are nothing new, but this feels like a whole

new level. But did we miss a major opportunity? Imagine, for a moment, that Vogue had gone with their usual shooter for all things easy on the eyes, Annie Liebowitz.



Trudeau's wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau (in an Oscar de la Renta dress), says of their first date. "At the end of dinner he said, 'I'm 31 years old, and I've bee...

We could've maybe had something like her infamous photo shoot with Miley Cyrus for Vanity Fair.

And now that the image of Justin Trudeau coquettishly wrapped in just a bed sheet is planted firmly in your head, I'll leave you to enjoy the rest of your day.

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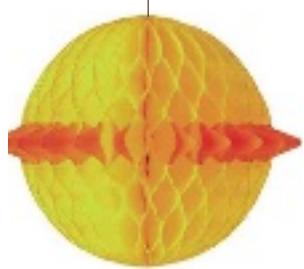
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Your essential daily news

For the ultimate Star Wars fan: Millennium Falcon bed from Pottery Barn Kids



STARRY NIGHT CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS FROM OUTER SPACE



A planet or two
Banish from your mind those ugly reproductions of the solar system in science class. This paper planet will give your Christmas tree an air of elegance. (15 pounds/\$31 CDN from the Conran Shop)



A beaded astronaut
Who said that space explorers lacked style? Not the Conran Shop, which has dressed its astronaut in beads. (10 pounds/\$21 CDN)



A Star Wars tree
Star Wars is everywhere, in store windows, on TV, and even on your Christmas tree. You'll have to choose between the light side of the Force with this handsome Yoda in resin from Walmart, or the dark side with the shadowy Darth Vader. (\$7.47 US/\$10 CDN each)



Some festive robots
We can't have a space theme without a robot. These cute ones are multi-coloured and sparkly. (\$21.50 US/\$29 CDN for a set of three from Paper Chase)



A starry sky
And lastly let's not forget the star, which decorates our tree, but is also a celestial body floating in space. (\$3 US/\$4 CDN from Paper Chase)

AFP



How to get festive in a hurry

TIPS

Six ways to decorate for the holidays in 20 minutes

With the holidays around the corner, it's time to add a little festive decor to your home. But not everyone has the space, time or desire to fit a big tree or lots of holiday tchotchkes in their home. Here are a handful of ways to add simple holiday vignettes that are small-space-friendly in 20 minutes or less.

1 Greenery on a mantle art

Bring the outdoors in.

Gather some vases and fill with fresh winter greenery for an eye-catching mantle display. We used milk glass vases from a thrift shop but you can get a similar look using clear vases or by upcycling jars or bottles.

No mantle, but still love the look? Place the vases on open shelving or as a centrepiece on a holiday table.

Keep greenery fresh by cutting the stems at an angle before placing in water. Freshen water daily.



2 Glass on a shelf

Turn a pretty glass into a miniature winter wonderland — a snow globe, a tiny bottle-brush tree and

a sweet little fawn look whimsical inside a glass or jam jar.

Make faux snow by using salt or sugar. Then add a fawn and a tree.

You can buy bottlebrush trees at craft stores (or even dollar stores) and the tiny fawns can be found at bakery supply stores and on Etsy.

3 Tray on a side table

A coffee table or side table is a great place to have fun adding some holiday decor. Gather seasonal items together on a tray. They don't have to be Christmas decorations. Think outside of the holiday box.

Try stacking some vintage books in pretty shades of green, adding a snow globe, some candles and a touch of greenery.

Vintage books can be found at thrift shops such as Goodwill or The Salvation Army. Add pieces with varying height, and layer with textures using natural elements like pine cones to keep it visually interesting.

Anchor it all on a tray to keep it organized and stylish.

4 Surprise bouquet

Tie some fresh greenery together with floral wire to create a mini bouquet.

Add velvet ribbon and tie it to the handle of a cabinet or a doorknob. So simple — yet so effective.

Little details like this add a special touch. That's what the season's all about.

5 Chalkboard on a wall

Go vertical.

Turn a chalkboard into a tree and trim it with holiday cookie cutters. String some baker's twine or ribbon through a cookie cutter and hang it on your wall using Washi (pretty paper) tape.

No chalkboard? Use Washi tape to create the outline of a tree on an empty wall and decorate with cookie cutter ornaments.

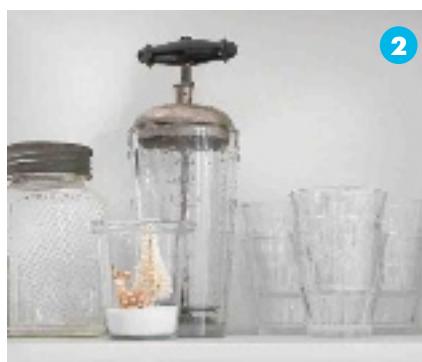
6 Decor by candlelight

Take a set of plain white candles and embellish them with touches of holiday greenery tied with string.

To help the greenery stay in place, use a little glue or spray adhesive and then wrap the string around the candle.

Be sure to use these candles in a place you can keep an eye on them.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



No time (or space) for a big tree? Sometimes a little fresh greenery and cookie-cutter "ornaments" are all you need. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A sleigh full of comfort, health

Sometimes it's the little things that add joy to our homes, whether it's creating a good night's sleep or comfort underfoot. Here's a few practical gifts to be enjoyed at home; give them to make the recipient feel great all year long.

Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada

1 HoMedics Deep Sound Machine

Drown out street noise and late-night commotion from the neighbours. \$115, BedBathAndBeyond.ca



2 Ella Comfort Recliner

Put your feet up in style for improved circulation and a better-looking living room. From \$4,000, CasaLife.com



3 Linen Granite Grey Mat

Pure comfort under the chef's feet. \$120, GelPro.com



4 Go Sport Blender

Looks good, takes up little counter space. \$40, HamiltonBeach.ca



5 Illumagine Pillowcase With Copper Oxide

You could look younger in just a few months by sleeping on these pillowcases. \$75, Sephora.com



6 Lavender Vanilla Aromatherapy Pillow Mist

An all-natural way to help you fall asleep. \$10, BathAndBodyWorks.com



7 Moen Engage 6-Spray WaterSense Hand Shower

An easy hook-up to an existing spout means turning an ordinary shower into a space experience. \$75, Lowes.ca



8 Withings Smart Body Analyzer

Track more than just the holiday shortbread cookies you've eaten. \$150, iStoreWorld.com





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Visit jdpower.com. ▲Based on 2015 Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) testing. ††2016 Cruze Limited LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies: \$29,039. 2015 Equinox LTZ FWD, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies: \$30,394. 2016 Equinox LTZ FWD, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies: \$34,139. Dealers are free to set individual prices. 2 Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles delivered from December 1, 2015 – January 4, 2016. 0% purchase financing offered on approved credit by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank[®] or RBC Royal Bank for 84 months on all new or demonstrator 2015 Silverado 1500 Double Cab 2WD WT / Crew Cab 2WD WT and Silverado HD WT 2WD. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. 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metro SPORTS

The Habs placed winger Alexander Semin on unconditional waivers Wednesday for the purposes of mutually terminating his contract

Great team passes torch

WORLD JUNIORS

Canada's 2016 club has some mighty big skates to fill

When Connor McDavid returned to Air Canada Centre for the first time since winning world junior gold with Canada, he didn't let the disappointment of being injured stop him from soaking in the memories and spreading some joy.

McDavid sent former teammates a Snapchat picture of a world junior poster from one of Canada's most dominating performances in the nation's history. That undefeated Canadian team could go down as one of the best, but players are just starting to make their mark.

Ten players from that stacked group have already made their NHL debuts with a handful of others on the cusp of doing the same. McDavid is the headliner, but forwards Curtis Lazar, Anthony Duclair, Max Domi, Robby Fabbri, Jake Virtanen, Nick Ritchie and Nic Petan and defenceman Darnell Nurse are tangible evidence that the 2015 Canadian world junior team was as NHL-ready as any under-20-year-old group could be.

"The way we played that tournament, I think it was pretty apparent that there was a lot of really good hockey players on that team," Nurse said. "To say that this many guys were going to be playing in the league this fast, I don't know if everyone expected (that). But playing alongside those guys, how professional they are,



Connor McDavid congratulates goalie Zach Fucale after defeating Slovakia in the 2015 semi-final. CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

how much hard work went in, it's pretty clear why they're in the league."

Lazar, Canada's captain, was established with the Ottawa Senators before the tournament, and Duclair was a surprise member of the New York Rangers as a 19-year-old. Canada also had the No. 2 draft pick from 2014 in Reinhart and projected No. 1 pick in McDavid, so it was obvious the team would be deep.

It was a very special team. It's good to see a bunch of them doing well in the NHL.

Connor McDavid

"We just looked at the line-up and we said, 'Wow,' and we said we can do something special, for sure," said Duclair, who's now a teammate of Domi on the Arizona Coyotes. "Not every year you get a group like that, that can play in the NHL

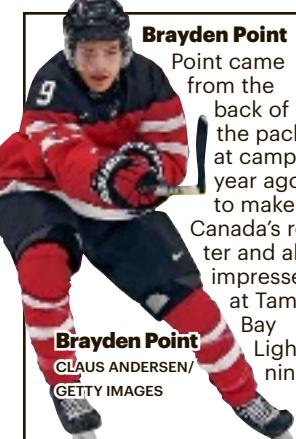
that year."

Even Hockey Canada officials didn't see this coming. They knew with an older group there was a good chance of winning on home ice and ending a five-year gold-medal drought but couldn't predict so many

players going right to the NHL nine months later.

"You like to think that part of their development is through the national junior team experience," Hockey Canada vice-president of hockey operations Scott Salmon said. "But you never know. For us, we need them to be ready for three weeks and they're exceptional for us and then where it goes from there no one knows."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Brayden Point

Point came from the back of the pack at camp a year ago to make Canada's roster and also impressed at Tampa Bay Lightning

2015 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

camp before going back to dominating for the WHL's Moose Jaw Warriors. He'll be a big piece in 2016.

Zach Fucale

Called up by the Montreal Canadiens to serve as Mike Condon's backup for three games, Canada's gold-medal-game starter has a .907 save percentage and 3.12 goals-against average for the American Hockey

League's St. John's IceCaps in his first season as a pro.

Frederik Gauthier

The Toronto Maple Leafs' 2013 first-round pick was a shutdown centre for Canada. He is now a role player with the AHL's Marlies and has 10 points in 22 games.

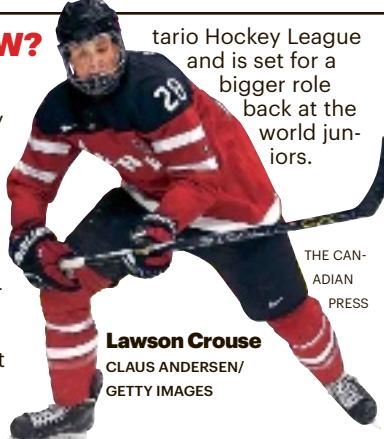
Joe Hicketts

A long shot to make the team in 2015, Hicketts is

a point-a-game player for the Western Hockey League's Victoria Royals and is expected to return for Canada in 2016.

Lawson Crouse

A bottom-six, role-playing winger for Canada a year ago, Crouse is a point-a-game dominant force for the Kingston Frontenacs of the On-



Lawson Crouse

CLAUSS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

CFL

Ticats, Lions, Eskimos lead all-stars

The B.C. Lions, Edmonton Eskimos and Hamilton Tiger-Cats led all teams Wednesday with five selections apiece to the Canadian Football League all-star team roster.

Receivers Adarius Bowman and Derel Walker from the Grey Cup champion Eskimos were honoured, along with defensive tackle Almondo Sewell, cornerback John Ojo and defensive back Aaron Grymes.

Lions offensive tackle Jovan Olafioye earned his fifth career CFL all-star team selection. Other B.C. players included linebacker Adam Bighill, running back Andrew Harris, receiver Emmanuel Arceneaux and punter Richie Leone.

Defensive players led the way for the Tiger-Cats. Defensive tackle Ted Laurent, linebacker Simoni Lawrence and defensive backs Emanuel Davis and Craig Butler were named to the roster along with kick returner Brandon Banks.

Ottawa's Henry Burris, the league's most outstanding player, was one of four Redblacks to make the team. The Montreal Alouettes and Calgary Stampeders were next with three selections apiece.

The Saskatchewan Roughriders and Winnipeg Blue Bombers had one selection each.

The Toronto Argonauts did not have a league all-star this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Skier sues in relation to concussions

Former Olympic aerials skier Veronika Bauer is suing the Canadian Freestyle Ski Association for negligence in relation to a series of concussions she suffered while active in the sport.

Bauer filed a civil claim with the Supreme Court of British Columbia last Thursday, naming the CSFA and Dr. Jeffrey Purkis as defendants.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spartan prepares for battle



Toronto middleweight Elias Theodorou has won all 11 of his fights, including both UFC bouts since emerging victorious in The Ultimate Fighter Nations show. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC

Canadian Theodorou to compete on Fight Night

Elias (The Spartan) Theodorou has passed every MMA test thrown at him so far.

The Toronto middleweight has won all 11 of his fights, including both UFC bouts since emerging victorious in The Ultimate Fighter Nations reality TV show. Charismatic and colourful, the 27-year-old is the kind of fighter the UFC hopes can help carry the flag north of the border.

Theodorou's credentials will be put under the microscope again Thursday when he faces Thiago Santos (11-3-0) on a Fight Night card.

The show is the first of three in as many nights in Las Vegas, culminating Saturday in UFC 194 when featherweight titleholder Jose Aldo meets interim champion Conor McGregor.

Thursday's main event features Rose (Thug) Namajunas (4-2-0), ranked third among

female strawweights, against No. 7 Paige (12-Gauge) VanZant (6-1-0).

Santos, a former Brazilian army paratrooper, needed just 29 seconds in June to knock former Quebec minor-league hockey enforcer Steve Bosse senseless with a kick to the head. In January, Santos stopped Andy Enz in one minute 56 seconds, hurting him with a body kick before unleashing a barrage of punches.

Theodorou calls Santos the best striker "by far" he has faced — "and someone who can pull the trigger."

"A very tough opponent, who wants to take my block off," he said. But he believes the Brazilian is more vulnerable the deeper he goes into a fight. Santos' lone loss in the UFC since appearing in The Ultimate Fighter Brazil was a unanimous decision to highly

touted Uriah Hall.

"I'm going to take him further and further into those deep waters and put on a pace he can't handle," said Theodorou, who has the grinding style and cardio to back that up.

Theodorou prepared for Santos by training in Long Island, N.Y., with middleweight champion Chris Weidman, who defends his title in Saturday's UFC 194 co-main event against Luke Rockhold.

The Canadian fighter had nothing but praise for Weidman and his training team, which includes noted striking coach Ray Longo and former UFC welterweight champion Matt Serra.

"He's the best in the world," Theodorou said of Weidman (13-0-0). "Most other places would want to shelter him, kind of keep him away from anyone. Whereas they're just wide-open." THE CANADIAN PRESS

I want to put every single ounce of me when I'm fighting towards that goal of winning. I don't want to be sidetracked.

Elias (The Spartan) Theodorou

IN BRIEF

Champions League

Arsenal advances on strength of Giroud hat trick

Christine Sinclair scored two goals and Nichelle Prince added a single as the Canadian women's soccer team defeated Mexico 3-0 on Wednesday in Brazil, at the International Tournament of Natal.

All three goals came in the first half of the opening friendly at the Arena das Dunas.

Canada will next play Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olivier Giroud scored a hat trick as Arsenal advanced to the last 16 of the Champions League with a 3-0 win over Olympiakos on Wednesday, overturning an advantage held by the Greeks.

The France striker opened the scoring in the 29th minute, heading home off a cross from Aaron Ramsey, with the ball bouncing under goalkeeper Roberto Gonzalez.

He struck again four minutes after halftime, running through defenders to slot in a pass from former Olympiakos player Joel Campbell.

Olympiakos,



Olivier Giroud converts a penalty against Olympiakos in Madrid on Wednesday. PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

which beat Arsenal 3-2 in London, nearly pulled a goal back through Kostas Fortounis, while Ideye Brown missed a point blank chance.

But the game followed

dium was silenced when Omar Elabdellaoui slipped and handled the ball.

Giroud again beat Gonzalez from the resulting penalty to seal the match and second place behind Bayern Munich in Group F.

"We are very pleased to go through," the 29-year-old Giroud said. "It was not easy to come here with this atmosphere ... We were not in a good position, but we did it."

Meanwhile in London, Chelsea finally had something to celebrate in its unexpectedly poor season after qualifying for the knockout phase with a 2-0 victory over Porto.

MOVING ON

Seeded teams: Real Madrid, Wolfsburg, Atletico Madrid, Manchester City, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Chelsea, Zenit St. Petersburg.

Unseeded teams: Paris Saint-Germain, PSV Eindhoven, Benfica, Juventus, Roma, Arsenal, Dynamo Kyiv, Gent.

Chelsea not only avoided the embarrassment of dropping into the Europa League, but Jose Mourinho's team advanced as Group G winners while his former club, Porto, finished third behind Dynamo Kyiv to qualify for the second-tier competition.

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MEGABIG.CA

RECIPE Baked Fried Chicken

PHOTO: MAYA VASSEY

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

All the crunch of fried chicken but with much less fat in the final dish, this baked recipe is sure to become part of your regular roster!

Ready in
Prep time: 60 minutes
Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup buttermilk (or add a tsp of vinegar to regular milk and let it sit for 15 minutes)
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 8 or 9 chicken pieces (thighs and drumsticks)
- 1 1/2 cups whole wheat bread crumbs
- 2 Tbsp fresh thyme
- 1 1/2 tsp lemon zest
- Salt and pepper to taste

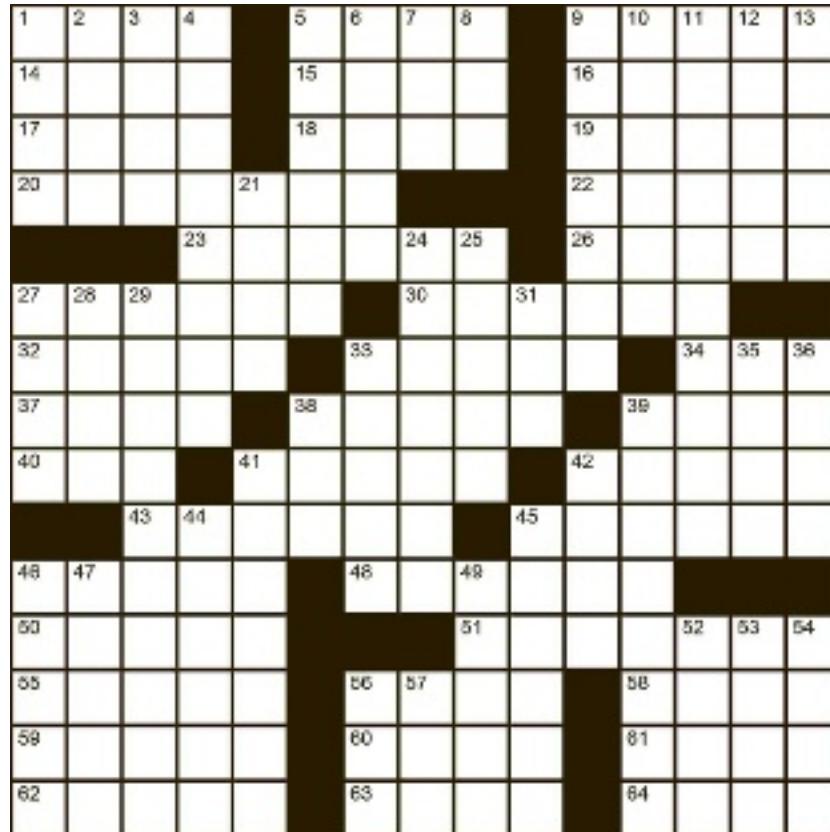
Directions

1. Combine the buttermilk and garlic together in a shallow pan container. Coat the chicken pieces thoroughly and cover with plastic wrap. Place in the fridge to marinate for a half an hour or up to over night. Turn the chicken pieces over at least once while marinating.
2. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
3. Mix bread crumbs in a bowl together with the thyme, zest and salt and pepper.
4. Dredge chicken pieces in the bread crumb mixture and place them on a baking sheet. Press bread crumbs onto the meat if some falls off.
5. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes until the outside of the chicken is deeply golden and the meat is cooked through.

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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

**ACROSS**

1. Take a genetic sample
5. Rick Danko group, The _
9. Verity
14. Fork prong
15. Comic strip dog
16. Artwork like the original, informally
17. Famous volcano
18. Canadian pop crooner Mr. Forbes (More at #30-Across)
19. Masterpiece-maker's mount
20. Alberta village 45 minutes from Edmonton
22. Geared for rocking
23. Gorges
26. Feats
27. "Angel Eyes" singer Jeff
30. New debut album by #18-Across: ' _ Woudla Shoulda'
32. Oscars gr.
33. Awestruck in facial expression
34. Gear
37. Purr alternative
38. Hears, like herald angels
39. Neat
40. "The A-Team" star, _ -
41. Cougars
42. Giver
43. Soldier's uniform part
45. YouTube owner
46. Greek alphabet's 8th letter
48. Short _ (Curt brush-off)
50. Type of mil. mission
51. Away from, say, the manufacturing plant
55. Expect
56. Edge
58. Thought
59. "Wuthering Heights" (1939) star

Ms. Oberon
60. Mr. Diggs
61. Tree varieties
62. Crowbar user, say
63. Vesper _ "Casino Royale" (2006) character
64. Seven, in Sherbrooke

DOWN

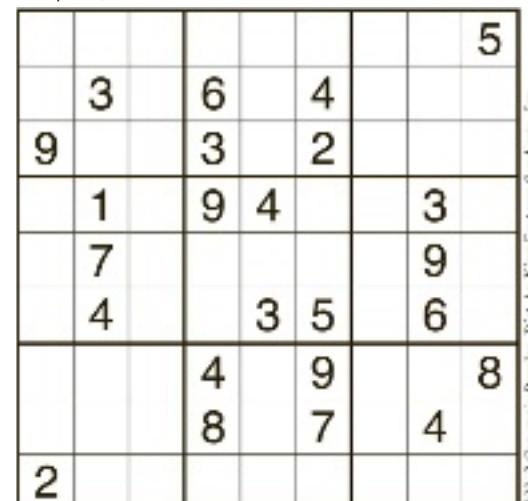
1. Editor's 'let it stand'
2. "I'm _ You": Avril Lavigne hit
3. 'A' in AD
4. Almond paste is an ingredient in this 'wild' pastry: 2 wds.
5. Furniture retailer with stores across Canada
6. All in _ work
7. Puny parasite
8. Private Investigator, e.g.
9. Vintage sewing machine foot peddle
10. Squeezed the

orange on the kitchen gadget

11. It's when the talker talks as if everything is a question?
12. Forested
13. Carries
21. " _ Leaving Home" by The Beatles
24. Mark _ Shania Twain duettist on "Party for Two"
25. Drenches
27. Jon of "Mad Men"
28. 'E' of ER, briefly
29. Glass _ jars (Cotton ball holders, perhaps)
31. Parcel delivery co.
33. Willie of "Eight Is Enough"
35. Seacrest's show, split
36. Car wheel, British-spelling style
38. Buzz
39. Canadian footwear brand since the 1940s, Tender _
41. Horticultural holder
42. Politely tip one's hat
44. Star: French
45. Talented
46. The _ Charlie Chaplin's persona
47. Woodcutter
49. _-Noranda, Quebec
52. Laze
53. Office helper, commonly
54. The Middle _
56. Ocean, e.g.
57. James _ (Canadian body of water)

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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*** IT'S ALL IN THE STARS** by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Put all doubts and fears out of your mind and do what you think is best. You have a clear picture of what needs to be done and the courage to make it happen. Don't hesitate.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
As communications planet Mercury moves in your favour today you won't be in the least bit shy or tongue-tied. Let others know what it is you need and they will give it.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you need to make a new start now is the time to speak up and let others know what it is you intend to do — and that your intentions are serious. But don't get so serious that you forget how to have fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You know that you have what it takes to succeed but others may need some convincing. You'll find it easier to persuade colleagues and employers, just remember that actions count more than words.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Go your own way and do your own thing. And don't worry about others — the best way to win them over is to act like their approval means nothing to you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Someone will deliver unexpected news today but you should have seen it coming. No matter how much it might upset you just accept it and move on. What else can you do?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is someone you should be seeing more of and this is the ideal time to ring them up and arrange to get together again. Don't drift apart so easily in future.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You have overlooked a small but important detail and the effects of that oversight will become apparent. Do not blame others for your failure. Be big enough to own your mistakes.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
For too long you've kept your aims and ambitions to yourself — let everyone know what you want and what you're doing to get it. Most people will be supportive. The few who are not you can safely ignore.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The doubts and fears of the past few weeks will fade away today as Mercury moves into your sign. The things you have been most anxious about will turn out to be the things you had least to fear.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Put principle before profit and don't worry if you seem to be the only one who cares. Others do care but few get as emotionally involved as you.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Difficult choices concerning your career will have to be made but don't do anything before you have consulted people you trust. It could be they can suggest less painful ways of making the changes you need.

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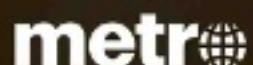
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